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PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #3007 3020749
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 280749Z OCT 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8327
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0638
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 2996
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 8707
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 1211
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 4421
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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - CROSS-BORDER ASSAULT IN SYRIA

11. LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers gave front-page coverage to Monday's fall in Tokyo stock prices to the lowest level in 26 years, as well as an informal decision by Prime Minister Aso to postpone a snap election until next year so that he can concentrate on dealing with the economic turmoil.

12. "Cross-Border Attack Meant to Apply Pressure on Syria?" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote from Cairo (10/28): "The possibility is high that the cross-border attack in eastern Syria from Iraq was a special operation carried out by the U.S. military aimed at preempting terrorists from entering Iraq.... The fact that the attack was launched during daylight hours reflects the U.S. intention to play up the operation at home and abroad. One view holds that the outgoing Bush administration displayed U.S. military power in order to press Syrian President Assad not to provide shelter to terrorists. However, Syria is moving out from international isolation, as it has established diplomatic relations with Lebanon, which Damascus had long considered a protectorate. The U.S. attack in Syria has actually enhanced Syria's diplomatic standing, with President Assad probably looking to ask the next U.S. administration to review U.S. policy toward his country."

SCHIEFFER